



Flathead Conservation District
133 Interstate Lane, Kalispell, MT 59901
www.flatheadcd.org 406-752-4220

CALL TO ORDER & ATTENDANCE

Chair Ronald Buentemeier called the May 29, 2018, Business meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. in the conference room.

Board members present:

Ronald Buentemeier, Chairman; Dean Sirucek, Secretary/Treasurer; Mark Siderius, Supervisor; Verdell Jackson, Supervisor; Lori Curtis, Supervisor, being a quorum of the Board.

Board members absent: Pete Woll, Vice Chairman; John Ellis, Supervisor. Absences are excused.

Also in attendance were: Valerie Kurth, Hailey Graf and Ginger Kauffman, FCD staff; Keagan Siebenaler; Samantha Tappenbeck, Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Montana (SWCDM); Heidi Shepherd; Leo Rosenthal and Kenny Breidinger, Fish Wildlife & Parks (FWP.)

MINUTES

Lori Curtis motioned "to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2018, 310-Stream Permit meeting as presented." Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Email: MACD & SWCDM Spring Report 2018, <http://macdnet.org>
 - June 4-6: NACD Northern Plains Meeting - Charlo
 - September 25, Area 5 Meeting, Deer Lodge, North Powell CD
 - November 13-16, MACD Annual Convention, Billings Hotel and Convention Center
2. Email: The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) and Department of Natural Resource & Conservation (DNRC) are teaming up to provide a free 1-day Aquatic Invasive Species training for educators and outreach coordinators. RSVPs are required.
June 12, Fort Peck - Contact Liz 406-444-9940 llodman@mt.gov
June 19, Missoula - Contact Kate 406-542-4282 kate.wilson@mt.gov
June 28, Great Falls - Contact Liz 406-444-9940 llodman@mt.gov
3. Email: NACD 2018 Conservation Forum and Tour, Williamsburg, VA, August 3-8.
NACD publications *eResource*
<http://www.nacdnet.org>



4. Email: Noxious Weed Clinic, June 6, Granite County Museum, Philipsburg, 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM. Contact Karen Petersen by May 30 at 406-859-3291 Ext 101, Karen.Petersen@mt.nacdnet.net
5. Email: SWCDM publication *The Montana Conservationist*
<http://swcdm.org>
6. Email: Montana Range Tour hosted by Richland and Roosevelt Conservation Districts, Sept 5th-6th, Sidney. Contact Tifney Kempton (787-5232 x101) or Julie Goss (433-2103 x3001).
7. Email: DNRC Reclamation & Development Grant Applications due Friday, June 15, 2018, 5:00 PM. Please submit applications online at www.fundingmt.org. The complete application form and instructions are available electronically on the DNRC website at: <http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/cardd/resource-development/reclamation-and-development-grants-program/reclamation-and-development-planning-grants-program> or by contacting DNRC. **Please use the 2019 Biennium Application.** Contact Heidi Anderson Fohnagy (information below) for submittal questions. If submitting my email/mail please use the addresses below. Remember, this is the last cycle that this method will be accepted. All future cycles will use www.fundingmt.org.
8. Email: Gallatin Conservation District newsletter *Conservation Journal*
<http://www.gallatincd.org>
9. Email: The Sweet Grass Conservation District is announcing a second round of funding for water-related projects. The maximum grant is \$21,000, deadline is August 6th. Contact Guelda 932-5160 x 101.
10. Email: National Association of Conservation Districts publications
Conservation Clips, Forestry Notes, NACD eResource
<http://www.nacdnet.org>
11. Email: Montana Range Days, June 18-20, Carbon County Fairgrounds in Red Lodge, MT. www.montanarangedays.org
Contact Darlene Schwend, Carbon CD, 406-962-3641, Ext. 105.
12. Email: Custer County Conservation District newsletter *Conservation Update*
<https://www.custercountyconservationdistrict.org>
13. Thank-you card and letter from Whitefish Legacy Partners (WLP) for the Education Grant. WLP will hold a Bear Aware event on September 15, 10:00 A.M., Lion Mountain. <https://www.whitefishlegacy.org>
14. The Draft Decision Notice & Finding of No Significant Impact and EA for the Taylor Hellroaring Project are available at
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=50518>
Contact Flathead National Forest Supervisors Office, 6500 Wolfpack Way, Kalispell. Additional information can be obtained from Project Leader, Michael Reichenberg, 406-758-3529, mreichenberg@fs.fed.us
15. Email: Lower Musselshell CD newsletter *LMCD Conservation News*
<http://lmcdistrict.wordpress.com>
16. Email: The Montana FWP Wibaux watercraft inspection station intercepted a boat carrying zebra mussels on Thursday, May 24th. The owner purchased the used boat and was transporting it to Alberta, Canada. The last launch of the boat was in Sturgeon Bay in Wisconsin. This is the fifth boat with mussels that watercraft inspectors have stopped this year. FWP reminds all those transporting motorized or



non-motorized boats into Montana to have their watercraft inspected before launching. Boat owners are required to stop at all open watercraft inspection stations. Persons purchasing used boats should ensure the watercraft are clean, drained and dry before crossing Montana state line. To find a watercraft inspection station visit www.cleandraindrymt.com

FINANCIAL

The following bill was due and paid prior to this meeting:

1. CenturyLink \$268.08

The following bills were reviewed:

1. Dennis Wasley \$225.68
2. Marshall Hagen \$1189.82
3. MontanaSky Networks \$40.00
4. RESPEC \$5000.00

Mark Siderius motioned "to approve the bills as presented." Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No one was present to comment on items not listed on the agenda.

College Scholarship Recipient: Keagan Siebenaler thanked the board for the college scholarship and spoke about his involvement with local natural resource organizations and agencies, as well as his academic plans beginning this fall.

NEW BUSINESS

Adopted Rules (AR's) Updates:

Supervisors, Staff and FWP briefly listed items in the AR's that need to be updated or changed:

- Definition for Follow-Up Inspections, page 21
- Standards for fords
- Detail regarding emergencies
- Minor wording changes
- Posting a copy of permit at worksite, page 15
- Additional information regarding decks and bridges
- Definitions
- Language regarding top of bank, immediate streambank, and mean high water mark with diagrams or cross sections.
- Diagrams of relic channels and typical channels
- Footnotes regarding distance back from top of bank

Ronald Buentemeier explained the process of updating the ARs. Leo Rosenthal explained some of the rules and guidelines followed by Missoula CD. Valerie Kurth had contacted Don MacIntyre about jurisdiction distances, and he said the statute did not set a quantitative distance, probably because every situation on the ground is different, and he does not think



CDs have authority to specify a distance. It was noted that the new DNRC *Guide to Stream Permitting in Montana* will be released soon, and cross sections and drawings from the Guide and from Rosgen course materials may be valuable to updating Flathead CD rules. Lori Curtis and Valerie will work together to consolidate recommendations and drawings. Valerie will contact Area V districts for copies of their Adopted Rules. Dean Sirucek motioned "that any Supervisor, FWP or Staff that wants to make a recommended change to the Adopted Rules should put those in written format by July 23rd." Mark Siderius seconded. Motion carried. The compiled list will then be discussed at the August 310-meeting.

Trumbull Creek Grant RPG-18-0538: Valerie Kurth explained the district received an invoice from RESPEC, which now needs to be submitted to DNRC for payment. Mark Siderius motioned "to approve and send the invoice for Planning Grant RPG 18-0538 in the amount of \$15,000.00 to DNRC." Lori Curtis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Online Bill Payments (phone): Valerie Kurth explained that we recently had a situation with the phone bill where billing turnaround was not quick enough to pay in time because of our meeting schedule. John Ellis had requested that staff work out an option to pay on line. Staff did the research and found the best choice is to use the CenturyLink *Online Quickbill Pay* option. The bill would be approved at a meeting, then paid on line the next day via the checking account. Mark Siderius "motioned to authorize staff to use the Quickbill Payment system for CenturyLink." Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Staff – Training & Leave:

Training: Valerie Kurth presented a Staff Training Overview for June 2018. Mark Siderius motioned "to approve the staff trainings as recommended." Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried.

Leave: Valerie presented a Public Information Officer (PIO) Proposal seeking the board's approval for Hailey Graf to be placed on a rotating list as PIO during local emergencies in cooperation with the county's Type III All-Hazards Incident Management Team or the Western Montana Type II Incident Management Team. Valerie noted this is a way for Hailey to offer her skills at a local level while also complementing her work at the district. Valerie noted office work fluctuates, but she and Hailey will definitely be in good communication about workload and availability.

Hailey thanked the board for taking the time to listen, and emphasized her work with the CD is priority and would take precedence over her responsibilities in the district office. She asked for the board's approval to participate outside of office hours or take leave without pay during office hours, and explained FCD would incur no financial cost from her participation. The work would be at the county level helping out local emergency responders. She would not be a federal employee, but a single resource, having the authority to dictate if, where, and when she would go on assignments, would have the ability to leave early, and has no responsibilities/commitment to a team. Any training to maintain qualifications would be on her own time (evenings or weekends). If she was contacted to go out during district business hours, she would first communicate with Valerie, who would make the ultimate decision.



Dean Sirucek motioned “the FCD allow Hailey Graf to be a PIO specialist on local incidents (western Montana) under the conditions laid out in the proposal.” Mark Siderius seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Montana Lakes Conference: Whitefish Lake Institute will hold the inaugural Montana Lakes Conference, March 13-15, 2019, at Whitefish Lake Lodge. Lori Curtis explained the intention is to bring scientists, researchers, engineers, and water management specialists together to address lake management issues in a single conference. They have already received many abstracts from people who would like to present. Conference sponsors will appear on the website and marketing materials. Valerie Kurth noted funds are still available for this fiscal year under the Watershed Other budget line. Lori and Valerie both noted that water quality issues are diverse, spanning septic leachate, algal blooms and AIS, and this is an opportunity to expand Flathead CD’s public outreach. Mark Siderius motioned “that Flathead CD approve a bronze \$1000 sponsorship (Welcome Reception).” Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried. *Lori Curtis abstained from voting.*

Weed Control at Owen Sowerwine Natural Area: Valerie Kurth explained that Flathead Audubon and Montana Audubon lease and manage the Owen Sowerwine Natural Area, which is part of DNRC’s Trust Lands. Flathead Audubon is seeking assistance for herbicide application(s) to get the weeds under control. They have many volunteers who are willing to hand-pull, but they do not have funds for herbicide spraying. Jed Fisher, Flathead County Weed Department, recently contacted Pete Woll and offered to do the spraying if Flathead CD could help pay for it. The contractor estimate was \$2200 per application, and recommended three applications. The Weed Department would charge a maximum of \$1000 per application, and recommended two applications. Supervisors discussed the type of chemicals and liabilities.

Mark Siderius motioned “the FCD approve two weed control applications by Flathead County on the Owen Sowerwine Natural Area, not to exceed \$2000, using this Fiscal Year funds.” Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried.

End of Month Budget Report (April): Ginger Kauffman reviewed the April End of Month report with the board. Dean Sirucek motioned “that the April End of Month Report be accepted as submitted.” Lori Curtis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

Flathead CD Staff: Valerie Kurth and Hailey Graf reported:

District Office and Outreach

1. Advertisements: Cost-Share Program (specific to cows in streams) and Educator Grant Program.
2. Valerie worked with Erin Farris-Olson, Executive Director of the Montana Watershed Coordination Council (MWCC), to prepare and submit an HB223 grant application for conservation district staff/supervisor travel to the upcoming MWCC Watershed Symposium. The symposium will be held in Whitefish this October, and the grants will be available to CD staff from anywhere in the state.



3. Hailey and Valerie attended the River to Lake Initiative meeting on May 16th.

310-related

Valerie continues to coordinate 310-related communication among DNRC, FWP, DEQ, Don MacIntyre (DNRC), Caitlin Overland (Deputy County Attorney), and the legal representatives involved in the judicial review for Stalowy.

On-the-Ground Projects

Trumbull Creek – Valerie worked with FCD’s consultant, Troy Benn from RESPEC, to assemble and write an application to DNRC’s Renewable Resource Grant and Loan (RRGL) program for a project that addresses flooding issues in the vicinity of Birch Grove Road. Valerie and Troy met with Ian McKay, Assistant Director of Glacier Park International Airport, to discuss the hydraulic modeling results and explore on-the-ground solutions. They later held a similar meeting with an adjacent landowner. With support from both of these key stakeholders, Troy wrote most of the application while Valerie continued landowner outreach to the remaining property owners. Valerie and Samantha Tappenbeck drafted two sections of the application (Project Management and Financial Narrative). The final application was submitted on May 15th and was accompanied by letters of support from five landowners and the airport. One additional letter is pending from Flathead County Roads and Bridges.

Krause Creek – Valerie updated the 2016 RRGL application for the 2018-19 cycle. She revised the budget to reflect projected costs in 2019. She also edited the text to align with DNRC’s updated RRGL guidelines. Don and Mary Ann Garner submitted a new letter of support.

River Steward – Valerie helped at a riparian buffer planting event on April 28th at Diamond B. The event had a record volunteer turnout: 29 adult volunteers, plus Franz Ingelfinger, Constanza von der Pahlen, and Valerie. We planted over 750 trees and shrubs in about 4 hours.

Cow Creek – Valerie and Samantha Tappenbeck drafted a project timeline and met with Cow Creek partners to discuss it, as well as the final design. They scheduled meetings with the two landowners later in June to review the design.

Landowner Programs

We have fielded many inquiries about the cost-share program for 2018-19, and most of them are focused on weed control. So far, we have received one application (due date is May 31st). Three of the five contracts from 2017-18 are complete.

Education and Outreach

Scholarships - Ginger Kauffman handled the communications for the college scholarships, including notification of the students and guidance counselors and scheduling of supervisors at the different high school awards ceremonies.

Rolling Rivers – Valerie, Hailey, and Pete Woll took the Rolling Rivers Trailer to the Heritage Learning Center on April 30th and presented to approximately 45 students.



Arbor Day – Hailey operated a station at the City of Kalispell Arbor Day event for 3rd graders on April 27th. She led about 120 students through a soil painting activity to teach them about different types of soil, soil properties, and how soils relate to tree growth.

Whitefish Legacy Partners – On May 1st, Hailey co-led a station at a watershed education event for approximately 130 3rd graders that was hosted by Whitefish Legacy Partners at their Lion Mountain educational pavilion.

Forestry Expo – Expo was held on May 7-12th at the Trumbull Creek Experimental Forest. Hailey, Valerie, and Pete Woll helped set up tarps at the workday on May 4th. Over 800 5th graders participated FCD's Riparian Station program. Hailey ran the station with help from many people: John Ellis, Dean Sirucek, Verdell Jackson, and Pete (FCD Supervisors); Valerie (FCD staff); Samantha Tappenbeck (SWCDM), Jessica Ressel (NRCS), Marlene Tidwell and Paul Kerzman (FSA); Sarah Bowman, Holly McKenzie, and Hilary Devlin. Thank you to everyone who helped this year! The feedback from guides, teachers, and students was very positive.

Project Learning Tree (PLT): Valerie helped facilitate a PLT Early Childhood Educator Workshop with Holly McKenzie and Frances Erler on May 19th. Twenty-seven educators attended, and their feedback was very enthusiastic.

Wetlands Education – Whitefish Lake Institute hosted wetlands education events on May 22-24. Hailey helped out with approximately 140 second grade students on the 22nd and 23rd and Valerie and Hailey led wetland tours for approximately 120 fifth grade students on the 24th.

Becoming Watershed Citizens – On May 25th, Hailey taught the Enviroscope program at the Flathead Lake Biological Station as part of the Flathead Lakers' Becoming Watershed Citizens educational event.

Website/social media

- Hailey developed a new webpage about pollinators and added it to the website under additional resources. This webpage includes basic information about pollinators, tips on pollinator-friendly planting, and helpful links and publications for landowners.
- Hailey wrote several new posts for our Facebook page and webpage about the benefits of flooding for fish, what a flood stage is and how the term is used, how to heel-in a bare root plant, and how to prevent nonpoint source pollution.
- Hailey posted pictures to the Facebook page that were really well-received by the public. The pictures showed Flathead River when it was nearly at 14' flood stage and compared it with some information on the 1964 flood.
- Website traffic was consistently about 20 users/day from April 24-May 24th, and the total number of users was 404 during that time period (370 were new).

Lori Curtis commented that FCD staff has done a wonderful job with regards to the Education Programs, and she truly enjoyed presenting college scholarships for the district.



Samantha Tappenbeck, SWCDM, reported SWCDM is hosting Riparian Grazing Workshops in 3 locations. DEQ has decided to sponsor 5 free registrations for private landowners. If supervisors know of any landowners that are interested in attending for free, please contact Samantha by June 1st. Scholarships are also available for professionals including district staff and supervisors through the Montana Watershed Coordination Council (MWCC).

Natural Resources & Conservation Service (NRCS): Jessie Ressel, NRCS, submitted the following report:

Office Business

- Contracting for Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) 2018 is complete, we were able to fund 3 forestry, 1 organic (high tunnel and fence) and one livestock water pipeline. We were able to fund the pipeline because of extra funds the agency had for this FY.
- Working on a compatible use agreement for one of the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) easements. Grazing will begin mid-July.
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) renewal is in progress, there are 4 renewals (2014 Contracts). Contracting for this renewal period will be completed by November 2018.
- Field season is beginning for all practice certifications of active contracts, and new EQIP and CSP inventories.
- Taking applications for EQIP 2019 funding. Application deadline is set for June 1, 2018. As of now, there are currently 11 new applications, land uses include forestry, cropland and pasture. There are 5 applications that are deferments from 2018 round, they were deferred due to ineligibility – mostly due to missed deadlines.
- Continual work on thinning projects, and field work pertaining to EQIP/CSP/WRP contracts.

Contracts

- **EQIP**- 26 active EQIP contracts. Land uses include: Forestland/Pre commercial thinning, Ag land/high tunnels.
- **CSP**- 12 active CSP contracts; 6 of them in their last year. CSP's in last year of contract will be offered an opportunity to re-new their contracts, of the 6, 4 will be renewing.
- **WRE** (Wetland Reserve Easements) - 15 easements; of those 4 of them are 30 year easements. A continued use agreement for grazing will need to be updated this year for one of the WRP contracts, this will require a grazing plan to be implemented.

Administrative

The District Conservationist (DC) position will be opened in 3 weeks for the Kalispell field office, along with 15 other MT vacancies. Jessica Ressel will be acting DC and will be point of contact for Kalispell NRCS office until mid-September. Office workload will be managed between Jessica, Roger Marsonette and Mindy Gauthier (Area Conservationist, Missoula).



Montana Association of Conservation Districts (MACD): No report. Valerie Kurth noted that MACD is currently conducting interviews for the Executive Director position.

Flathead County Planning Board (FCPB): Dean Sirucek reported the May 9th meeting only included one zone change. The next meeting is June 13th.

Whitefish City Planning Board (WCPB): No report.

Upper Columbia Conservation Commission (UC3): Lori Curtis reported Bureau of Reclamation funding was allotted for:

- Education and Outreach training and materials
- Invasive Species website for the State of Montana, which will include an AIS database and website platforms for UC3, Montana Invasive Species Council and the Flathead Basin Commission
- Expansion of the Lakes Monitoring Network
- Develop a Marina/Moored Vessel Program

The next meeting is June 13th.

Haskill Basin Watershed Council (HBWC): No report.

Flathead Basin Commission (FBC): The next meeting is June 20th.

Flathead River Commission (FRC): Mark Siderius reported there was a lack of quorum for the May 7th meeting. Samantha Tappenbeck, SWCDM, gave a report and the current flood forecast was discussed. Two members have exited the FRC. The Flood Forecasting meeting was held April 30th with Flathead County and other agencies. The next FRC meeting is Monday, June 4th in the FCD conference room.

Clark Fork & Kootenai River Basins Council (CFKRBC): The next meeting is July 12th.



MATTERS OF THE BOARD/STAFF

FY 2018/2019 Budget Meeting: The FY 2018/2019 Budget meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, July 18th, 9:00 A.M. in the conference room.

Staloway Litigation: Copies of the Petitioners' Reply Brief in Support of Amended Petition for Judicial Review were given to the supervisors. Valerie Kurth reported we are now waiting for the judge's written decision.

The next 310-Stream Permit meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 11, 2018, 7:00 P.M. in the conference room of the USDA building at 133 Interstate Lane, Kalispell, MT.

Adjournment: Dean Sirucek motioned "to adjourn." Mark Siderius seconded. Motion carried unanimously. As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:58 P.M.

Submitted By:

Ginger Kauffman
Administrator

Valerie Kurth, Ph.D.
Resource Conservationist

Minutes approved by FCD Board motion made on:

<u>6/11/2018</u>	<u>Ronald Buentemeier</u>	<u>Chair</u>
(Date)	(Signature)	(Title – Chair etc.)

